

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story

**The Grimwood Household**  
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### Getting into the Recycling Habit

#### The Member

Donovan, Jessica, and their three cats moved to a two-bedroom apartment in September 2005. Donovan is an Environmental Specialist with the State of Tennessee and Jessica is a Home Health Care nurse. Since moving, we have evaluated our household to implement various environmentally friendly routines. We are committed to the environment and hope to save money, while including these practices in our daily routine.

#### The Story

One of the first projects implemented was a recycling program for paper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum. Using garbage cans specifically set aside for the various materials was a quick and easy way to set up recycling bins. The paper and plastic bins are outside on the patio. They are the larger bins and receive the majority of the recyclable materials. The smaller bins for aluminum and glass are stored in the laundry room. Cardboard is broken down and stored in the largest available box. Areas inside the house are set aside to accumulate plastics and paper until they are taken to the bins for storage. All the recyclables are taken to one of the various recycling centers in Nashville.



#### Jessica recycling plastics at Myatt Drive

As the project evolves, recycling is becoming part of a routine lifestyle rather than a conscious effort to recycle an item. We also encourage guests in our home to follow our practices by using the available bins rather than throwing recyclables in the trash.

#### The Success

The bins are emptied once a month for the plastic and once every two months for the paper. The aluminum cans are compacted and roughly 10 gallons of crushed cans have been collected. Glass and cardboard are taken with the plastics, unless there is an excessive amount of cardboard (like around Christmas or during the wedding). Since September 2005, approximately 100 gallons of plastic and 160 lbs of paper have been recycled. An equivalent amount of cardboard has also been recycled during this time. Glass is very intermittent and is not a major component of the waste stream from our household. In addition, wine bottles are saved for reuse rather than being recycled. While recycling does not result in a cost saving for the household, it does have noticeable effects, such as the amount of garbage that is actually thrown away. By recycling, the trashcan is only emptied once a week. This means less landfill space is being used.

#### The Pollution Prevented

Paper recycling from our household has already saved the equivalent of 328 kWh of electricity, saved 1.36 trees, and conserved 556 gallons of water. Plastic recycling has saved 0.576 cubic yards of landfill space. Though glass remains a small portion of the recycling content, it is estimated that at least 14 kWh have been saved, as just one bottle saves enough energy to light a 60 W bulb for four hours. Cardboard recycling has resulted in similar savings as paper recycling. Aluminum recycling has saved enough energy to produce the equivalent of 200 gallons of new aluminum cans. Our next goal is to evaluate implementation of steel can recycling. Recycling is a priority and has become part of a daily routine in the Grimwood household.

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